

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of providing USB device support in an interactive system, said method comprising the steps of:

determining USB device information;

communicating the USB device information to a USB server; and,

receiving a driver functionality message comprising information concerning the appropriate USB driver to support the USB device.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein determining USB device information comprises analyzing the USB device via a USB connection.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein communicating the USB device information to a USB server comprises communicating the USB device information to the USB server via an interactive path across a network.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein communicating the USB device information to a USB server comprises communicating the USB device information to the USB server via an interactive path across a wireless network.

5. The method of Claim 3, wherein communicating the USB device information to a USB server comprises communicating the USB device information to the USB server via an interactive path across a cable network.
6. The method of Claim 1, wherein receiving a driver functionality message comprises receiving a message comprising functionality for the appropriate USB driver for the USB device via an intermediate message protocol.
7. The method of Claim 1, wherein receiving a driver functionality message comprises receiving a message comprising the appropriate USB driver.

8. A method of providing USB device support to a home gateway device in an interactive system, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving USB device information;

determining the appropriate USB driver for the USB device; and,

communicating a driver functionality message comprising USB driver functionality for the appropriate USB driver.

9. The method of Claim 8, wherein determining the USB driver for the USB device comprises determining a type of USB device by analyzing the USB device information.

10. The method of Claim 9, wherein communicating a driver functionality message comprises communicating a message comprising instructions for the home gateway device based on the USB driver for the type of USB device.

11. The method of Claim 8, wherein communicating a driver functionality message to the home gateway device comprises communicating a message comprising the USB driver.

12. An apparatus for providing USB class support in an interactive system, said apparatus comprising:

 a USB port for connecting to comprising to a USB device; and,

 a network connection to a USB server;

 wherein the apparatus determines USB device information, communicates the USB device information to a USB server, and receives a driver functionality message to support the USB device.

13. The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein said USB port is coupled to a USB hub.

14. The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein said network connection to a USB server comprises a network connection via a wireless network to a USB server.

15. The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein said network connection to a USB server comprises a network connection via a cable network to a USB server.

16. An apparatus for providing USB driver functionality to a USB device coupled to a home gateway device in an interactive system, said apparatus comprising:

 a USB memory device, said USB memory device comprising memory for storing USB driver information associated with a USB driver; and

 an interactive path connection to a home gateway device;

 wherein said apparatus receives USB device information; determines the appropriate USB driver for the USB device; and communicates a driver functionality message comprising USB driver functionality for the appropriate USB driver.

17. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said USB memory device comprises USB driver information

18. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said interactive path is supported by a network.

19. The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein said network comprises a wireless network.

20. The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein said network comprises a cable network.

21. A system for providing USB class support in an interactive system, said apparatus comprising:

a home gateway device, said home gateway device comprising a USB port coupled to a USB device and a network connection to a network;

a USB server, said USB server comprising a USB memory device for storing USB driver information associated with a USB driver and a network connection to a network;

wherein said system communicates USB device information from the home gateway device to the USB server, and communicates a driver functionality message from the USB server to the home gateway device.

22. The system of Claim 21, wherein said home gateway device network connection and said USB server network connection create an interactive path between the USB server and the home gateway device.

23. The system of Claim 22, wherein said interactive path provides for driver functionality messages to be communicated from the USB server to the home gateway device via an intermediate messaging protocol.

24. The system of Claim 22, wherein said interactive path is supported by a cable network.

25. A computer-readable carrier including computer program instructions that instruct a computer to perform the steps of:
 - determining USB device information;
 - communicating the USB device information to a USB server; and
 - receiving a driver functionality message comprising information concerning the appropriate USB driver to support the USB device.
26. The computer readable carrier of Claim 25, wherein accepting a USB device via a connection to a USB port comprises receiving the USB device through a connection to a USB port on a USB hub.
27. The computer readable carrier of Claim 25, wherein determining USB device information comprises analyzing the USB device via the USB connection to determine the type of USB device.
28. The computer readable carrier of Claim 25, wherein communicating the USB device information to a USB server comprises communicating the USB device information to the USB server across a network.
29. The computer readable carrier of Claim 28, wherein communicating the USB device information to a USB server comprises communicating the USB device information to the USB server across a wireless network.

30. The computer readable carrier of Claim 28, wherein communicating the USB device information to a USB server comprises communicating the USB device information to the USB server across a wireless network.

31. The computer readable carrier of Claim 25, wherein receiving a message comprising USB driver functionality to support the USB device comprises receiving a message comprising functionality for the USB driver for the USB device via an intermediate message protocol.